

2006 ELECTION

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 2



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Mazie Keiko Hirono was born in Fukushima, Japan on Nov. 3, 1947 and immigrated to Hawaii with her mother when she was almost 8 years old. Hirono was naturalized a U.S. citizen in 1959, the year Hawaii became a state.

Educated in public schools in Hawaii, she graduated with honors from Kaimuki High School and Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Hawaii at Manoa. She earned her law degree from Georgetown University Law Center in Washington, D.C.

Hirono served for 14 years in the Hawaii State Legislature and earned a reputation as a dedicated consumer advocate and outspoken member and a founder of the House Women's Caucus. Over 120 of her bills became law, making her one of the most effective members of the Legislature during her 7 terms.

She served two 4-year terms as the State of Hawaii's ninth elected Lieutenant Governor.

As Lt. Governor, Hirono focused on the economy and education, including reforming the workers compensation system by creating the Hawaii Employers Mutual Insurance Company (HEMIC); co-founding University Connections, a group bringing the business and research communities together to support technology transfer and commercialization of research; obtaining \$5 million from the Legislature to build pre-schools on selected elementary school campuses; and, as chair of Hawaii's Policy Group of the National Commission on Teaching and America's Future, working with legislators to pass a package of bills to support quality teaching.

Hirono is married to attorney Leighton Kim Oshima. Her mother, Laura Hirono resides with them.